

Letter from Leesburg.
Correspondence of the Alexandria Gazette.
LEESBURG, VA., March 15.—The regular jury in our County Court was discharged last evening, but there will be a special jury to-day for the rendition of verdicts upon plain cases. John Rollison was convicted of an assault on Wesley Jenkins, and was fined \$25 and costs. A good deal of civil business was transacted.

We have had several alarms of fire lately, and some of them were near pressing serious ones. On Tuesday night, a stone stable on the premises of Dr. Jackson was found to be on fire. Although it contained a load of hay, the fire was arrested when it had consumed half of the roof. Fortunately, there was little stir, for the building was situated in the most exposed part of the town, and an ordinary wind from the south-west, or north-west would have caused immense destruction of property.

Public sentiment with regard to the condition of the country was in a considerable ferment for a few days after the inauguration, and some conservative men were somewhat shaken in their determination to uphold the Union; but I think reason has resumed its sway, and the probable evacuation of Fort Sumter has "confirmed the feeble knees."

As to the work before the Convention, most of those with whom I have talked favor a Border State Convention; but, I must confess, I would look upon such a Convention with more favor, if the appointment of its members were in the hands of the conservative Convention, rather than in the hands of the Governors of the Border States.

Would there be any harm in our Convention accepting the Peace Convention propositions as satisfactory to them, and then submitting their action to a vote of our people at the May election? If our people adopted them, we could then have a definite issue made up for the next elections all over the country, and we could then see how those people stood, and being in the right beyond all question, we could then act fully together in the assertion of our rights.

I think that our people here would take these propositions probably by a large majority as was given for reference of the action of the Convention to the people. We want peace and quiet, and we especially now that our people have commenced their year's work.

I have heard that Mr. C. W. Morgan, a printer by trade, and a daguerrotypist by occupation, has received an appointment to a Clerkship in Washington. He is a Pennsylvanian, who married in this county, and is said to be a near connection of Mr. David Wilmont.

I hear of no applications for office from this county, and I hope there will be none; for while the people of Loudoun are willing to acquiesce in the administration of Lincoln, while it is just and constitutional, yet they have no much self-respect to ask to share in the offices at the disposal of a sectional President.

The wheat is said to look well, and a great deal of ploughing for corn has been done. Cloverseed has sold for \$5.20 to \$5.50.

No candidates for the legislature have yet been announced, but I suppose we will have some after awhile. I never but once knew the people of this county so willing to support a man and his constitution, and this I attribute to the fact that they must be Union men to stand any chance of seeing Richmond next winter.

Yours, ALIQUIS.

The New York Canal Board has fixed all tolls the same as last year, except grain, making all grain 2 1/2 mills. This raises wheat and corn half a mill and decreases barley and oats.

COMMERCIAL.

Alexandria Market, March 16.

The demand for Flour is fair; quotations are nominal. We quote superfine at \$5.12 1/2 @ \$5.15, Extra \$5.05 @ \$5.08, Family \$5.00 @ \$5.03. The offerings on "Change" this morning were light. There were sales of wheat at 122, 140, and 142c, for fair to good—no choice offered. There were no sales of red wheat reported on "Change." Corn is in active request. We quote prime to choice quotations at 60 1/2 @ 62c. There were no offerings of Rye or Oats on the market. Prices are nominal.

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Maryland Annual Conference—Methodist Protestant Church.
Full report of the hour of adjournment, on Friday evening.
NEWARK, N. J., March 13.—The Conference is held in the First Methodist Protestant Church, on Hill street, Rev. Dr. Murray, pastor.

The Conference is well attended by both clerical and lay members. The distance has prevented some of the fathers of the church from attendance; they will, however, probably be represented by the venerable Dr. Francis Waters, of Baltimore, late president of Washington College.

The Conference was called to order by the President, Rev. D. W. Bates, at whose invitation Rev. S. B. Sutherland, of Charleston, South Carolina, conducted the religious services.

Rev. J. T. Ward, of Alexandria, Va., was elected Secretary, and John S. Kepp and Ormand Hammond, esq., appointed assistant secretaries. The mode of examining official character was determined upon.

The annual sermon was preached by Rev. Daniel W. Bates, following which was the administration of the sacrament.

The Conference reassembled at 2 o'clock, P. M. The president read a message, of which the following is a synopsis: During the year past the life of all the ministers has been spared, and the district is in a prosperous condition. He has travelled 4,722 miles in discharge of official duties; preached 164 times, and written 270 letters. He has supplied several vacant churches with ministers. On application of 22 seceders from the Methodist Episcopal Church at Fredericksburg, he has recognized them as a Methodist Protestant church. It has employed four young ministers coming from the Methodist Episcopal Church.

He deprecates the reception of young men into the ministry at too early an age as restricting their ultimate usefulness. He also deprecates the last imposition of hands, either upon preachers in the itinerant or local ranks. He recommends the instruction of congregations upon the subject of baptism; also the enlarging of powers of missionaries, and the more extended employment of superannuated ministers. He also makes some suggestions upon the subject of protracted meetings, recognizing the importance of immediate improvement of religious impressions without waiting for set times for protracted efforts. He also recommends the more vigorous exertions to increase the circulation of the "Methodist Protestant" in the Maryland District.

The remainder of the afternoon was consumed in examining official character of ministers.

SECOND DAY.—The examination of official character was renewed and completed.

Revs. J. Shreve and Oliver Cox made an interesting report of missionary operations in and about Baltimore during the year just closed. They report an increase of 74 members and a reduction of debt on church property to \$640 at East Baltimore mission.

Also the erection of a comfortable and commodious church, and an increase of 200 members and 269 Sunday school children at North Baltimore mission, corner of Broadway and Monument streets. Rev. Murray, missionary at Newark, reports a doubling of the membership at his mission, an interesting Sunday school, and generally encouraging indications of the success of the church at Newark.

The president announced the committees. The report of the book committee exhibits a healthy condition of the Book Concern. It calls attention to the enlarged and improved character of the Methodist Protestant, and to the necessity of increased effort to extend its circulation.

The minister's names being called, to ascertain who will engage in active service during the ensuing year, Rev. Oliver Cox was, at his own request, unananimously elected. Rev. W. S. Hammond was loaned to the Virginia Conference for one year.

On motion, Conference proceeded to select the place for holding the next session of the Conference, when Chestertown, Kent county, Md., was selected as the place, and the 2nd Wednesday in March, 1862, as the time.

The order of the day, being the election of officers, Conference proceeded with business with the following result: President, Rev. L. W. Bates.

The Conference then adjourned, to meet again this morning.

The Laymen's Convention.

STANTON, March 14.—The memorials from the Light street meeting, held in January, was presented to the committee and read. On motion, it was referred to the committee on business.

On motion, the fourth delegate from Patuxent circuit was admitted to a seat in the Convention.

The business committee reported two memorials on the subject of church difficulties. The majority report adopted in committee, 10 to 4, advocates separation from the northern church without delay. The minority report advocates a delay of two or four years, and then, in certain contingencies, to separate.

The debate upon the adoption of the majority report is now proceeding with much spirit and good feeling, and the faculty of talking among the laity is not far below that of the ministry. Mr. Back, of Baltimore, made quite a telling speech in favor of the majority report. Mr. Grant, of Anne Arundel county, made a speech of considerable interest, and advocated the repeal of all slavery clauses from the discipline.

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Proceedings of the Baltimore Annual Conference—Third Day.

[REPRINTED FROM THE ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE.]
STANTON, March 15.—The Conference met at 9 o'clock, a. m., Bishop Scott in the Chair. Rev. Isaac Gilson led in prayer; after which, the proceedings of yesterday were read by the Secretary.

A report from the Preachers' Aid Society was presented by Rev. Wm. Hunt, and referred to the Committee on "Necessitous Cases."

On motion, a Committee on Annual Register was appointed, consisting of Messrs. M. Gore, Martin, and Chapman.

Rev. Mr. Wheeler extended an invitation to the members of Conference on the deaf, dumb and blind institution, to attend an exhibition at the institution, to take place at 3 o'clock, p. m., which was accepted by the Conference.

Much time of the Conference was occupied by the Stewards of the Conference in the call of Claims and Collections.

The chair introduced to the Conference Rev. Mr. Campbell, of the Presbyterian Church; the Rev. Mr. Davis, of the Lutheran Church; and the Rev. Mr. Taylor, of the Baptist Church.

A report of the Board of Trustees of the Baltimore Female College was presented, and referred to the Committee on Seminaries.

A similar one was presented from a Female School at Annapolis, Md., and referred to the same Committee.

The hour for the order of the day having arrived, the following questions were presented to, and answered by Bishop Scott:

1st. By John W. Ball. Does not the late action of the General Conference upon the subject of Slavery, as embodied in the new Chapter, relate to slavery as it exists in the M. E. Church?

Answer.—I am not sure that I understand the question. The action of the late General Conference relates, I suppose, to slavery as popularly understood to exist in the M. E. Church. But the new Chapter assumes that slavery as defined in that Chapter does not exist at all in the M. E. Church.

2nd. By A. W. Wilson.—Has the presiding Bishop of the Conference authority to ordain any preacher, local or travelling, who say they cannot subscribe and conform to the doctrine of the new Chapter?

Answer.—The presiding Bishop has authority to ordain any preacher who have been duly elected to ordination, and who take upon them the ordination vows contained in the ordination service.

Mr. Phelps resumed his remarks from yesterday, and said he had not intended directing his remarks in the way he did on yesterday, had it not been for the positions assumed by the Rev. W. Wilson. He returned his thanks to the Conference for the courtesy extended him on yesterday, in allowing him to resume his remarks today, and would not proceed unless it was the wish of his friends. [Cries of go on, from all over the house.] He said, when principle and duty call him to action, that God in his power had given him the nerve to act. He said, in reply to Rev. W. Wilson, that if he believed this morning that he could not be recognized as a loyal citizen of the Commonwealth of Virginia, and hold the book containing the new Chapter on Slavery and connection with the Church, he would dissolve that connection at once. [A loud cheering burst followed.]

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upon the Conference to deliberate well before he decided to secede; he asked should we withdraw our connection from the Church we had made? simply because the General Conference had passed laws which are "null and void," he asked would not the General Conference feel its defeat when the Church should decide this Chapter to be "null and void," and agree to leave the question of slavery to those to whom it belongs—for to them it does belong, let us make this request, and if the General Conference refuses to grant it to us, we will divide the property of the Church, and set up for ourselves. He did not like this idea of immediate secession. It looked like doing a thing under the heat of passion and excitement. He said the Baltimore Conference had done more than all the other Conferences towards building up the Church, and she might be called the mother of them all. He reviewed the progress and history of the Church in the United States, he said it was true that the Church had started in New York city, but had almost died out during the Revolution, but caught new life in the city of Baltimore, where it has continued to flourish until now, and there could be nothing that would distress him more than to see the Church, which he had fostered and nurtured, to see it fall to pieces. He loved the church, next to his own family, better than every thing on earth.

The falling of the old man's tears from his wrinkled cheeks told plainly that his whole soul was enlisted in this question.

As the hour of adjournment had almost arrived, Mr. Gilbert went to the floor but gave way to Mr. Phelps, who moved that the question be laid upon the table until to-morrow at 10 o'clock, (when Mr. G. is entitled to the floor) and that the second year's class be called up, and stand their examination before the Bishop in order that they be allowed to vote.

This motion was laid on the table until to-morrow at 10 o'clock. Whereupon the Secretary notified the second year's class to present themselves before the Conference on to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock. On motion, the Convention adjourned.

Nothing special was done in the Laymen's Convention to-day, several speeches were made advocating delay and opposing any immediate withdrawal, the speeches are spoken as quite able.

THIRTY-SEVENTH CONGRESS.
[REPRINTED FROM THE ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE.]

In Senate, Friday, March 16.
On motion by Mr. Wilson, the resolution introduced by Mr. Douglas was postponed till Monday next.

Mr. Mason moved to take up his resolution relative to the United States troops now in this city.

Mr. Fossenden moved to go into executive session, on which motion Mr. Mason demanded the yeas and nays, resulting yeas 27, nays 10.

The Senate went into executive session and then adjourned.

ATTENTIVE TO KILL.—A daring attempt to kill, was made by a negro man named Abner, belonging to C. L. Langhorne, on Friday night. One of our most respected citizens, Capt. M. R. Behannon, in company with his wife, was passing the factory of Col. Langhorne, on Clay street, when the negro deliberately fired at them, with as much success as if he had been loaded with shot. Fortunately the Captain or his wife received any injury. As soon as the negro had fired he ran off, but before he was recognized with sufficient certainty to be identified. The police have been on the look out for the murderous rascal ever since the shooting, but up to the present writing have not effected his arrest. —*Lynchburg Republican.*

MARRIED.
By the Rev. Wm. Connor Blount, on the 15th of March 186